

# NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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### STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION RECEIVES TWO NATIONAL AWARDS



**Peggy Reisher, on the left. Reisher is Traumatic Brain Injury grant project coordinator. Keri Bennett, Vocational Rehabilitation program director, is on the right.**

Nebraska's Vocational Rehabilitation office recently received two national awards for developing the first-ever screening tool to help identify young children who have experienced a traumatic brain injury and for the development of informational resources for parents.

Vocational Rehabilitation received the awards for a pilot project funded by a grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The Nebraska Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation office serves individuals with disabilities.

Vocational Rehabilitation received the national *Collaboration & Coalition Building Award* for its partnership with the Nebraska Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council and Complete Children's Health in Lincoln. Dr. Scott Applegate, formerly of Complete Children's Health, was instrumental in leading the project. The partnership developed the first-ever screening tool to measure the incidences of traumatic brain injury among young children birth to 4 years and to demonstrate the importance of early identification and intervention. The SAFE Child screening tool as well as an informational brochure for parents and materials summarizing data related to the incidences of traumatic brain injuries received a second national award, the *Most Popular State Agency Grant Product Award*.

For more information regarding the TBI Council, please contact Keri Bennett, Vocational Rehabilitation program director, at [keri.bennett@nebraska.gov](mailto:keri.bennett@nebraska.gov) or 308.865.5012.